

# California State Journal of Medicine

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## MORE ABOUT THE YOSEMITE MEETING

This is a continuation of the editorial in the October number of the Journal, relating to the Yosemite meeting. If you have not read that editorial please do so.

**Transportation and Hotels:** All matters of every description regarding any phase of transportation or hotel accommodations have been placed in the hands of a committee representing the Yosemite Transportation Committee and the State Medical Society. The personnel of this committee is as follows:

Mr. H. H. Hunkins, Traffic Manager, Yosemite Transportation Co., 637 Pacific Building, San Francisco, Chairman of the Committee.

Dr. James H. Parkinson, 1601 I Street, Sacramento.

Dr. Morton Gibbons, 350 Post Street, San Francisco.

Dr. Paul M. Carrington, 809 Watts Building, San Diego.

Dr. T. C. Edwards, Salinas.

Dr. William H. Kiger, 711 Pacific Mutual Building, Los Angeles.

Mr. R. E. McCormack, Chief Clerk, Yosemite Transportation Co., 637 Pacific Building, San Francisco, Secretary of the Committee.

The Publicity Committee has an announcement which appears on page 446 of this Journal. Please read it.

There will be ample accommodations for every person who wishes to attend the meeting in Yosemite. The earlier the reservation, the more certain you will be to get what you want. Write to Mr. Hunkins' office without delay, stating your needs. At the same time ask the same committee regarding your transportation. The railroad companies are making provision whereby tickets may be purchased to Yosemite and return home, or they may be purchased to St. Louis for the A. M. A. convention, with stopover privileges of four days in Yosemite. The rates will be such as the railroad companies can arrange for under the rules of the association of terminal lines and as provided for by the Railroad Commission.

The committee on transportation and hotels will have its offices at 637 Pacific Building, San Francisco, and in ample time will transfer these offices to Yosemite Park. In the Yosemite office there will be present during the convention a representative of all the railroads, with power to vise and make necessary changes in tickets or to sell tickets.

Do not forget that the meeting is Monday to Thursday, the 15th to 18th of May.

The program will be published in February and those interested in contributing papers should address the secretary of the appropriate section (list published on page 447 of this Journal) without delay.

Any question or problem of any description should be promptly communicated to the Secretary of the State Society.

## ABOUT "FEE SPLITTING"

There is a growing confusion and not a little misunderstanding in the minds of many physicians regarding "fee splitting." The evidence seems to indicate a certain amount of definite encouragement of both the confusion and the misunderstanding.

The Principles of Ethics very specifically and quite properly condemns the *secret* division of a fee. It is also unprofessional to give or receive a commission. In other words, it is degrading and unprofessional for a physician to be a party to any transaction that permits payment for anything except for services rendered to the patient. On the other hand, each and every physician actually rendering service to any patient is entitled to share in whatever compensation is available for the composite service. The Principles of Ethics specifically provide for this situation in the latter part of Section 3 of Article VI:

"It is also unprofessional to divide a fee for medical advice or surgical treatment, unless the patient or his next friend is fully informed as to the terms of the transaction. The patient should be made to realize that a proper fee should be paid the family physician for the service he renders in determining the surgical or medical treatment suited to the condition, and in advising concerning those best qualified to render any special service that may be required by the patient."

This section provides quite definitely for divisions of a fee, protects the family physician in charge of the patient and the patient or person who pays the bill. It quite definitely provides that the patient must be fully informed of the arrangements for the division of the fee among all those who have served, and intimates with sufficient clarity that the family physician should assume a responsible role in such transactions.

There is nothing that is confusing or difficult to understand in our ethics. They condemn *secrecy* in the apportionment of earned fees; condemn